



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory

FAX MESSAGE



DATE: 10/01/03

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TO: Sue Jacobson
Environmental Analyst
Dept. Environmental Protection

FROM: DAVID H. CAREY
DIRECTOR

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SUBJECT: Bureau response to sedimentation statements.

Attached please find a response from the Department of Agriculture-Bureau Aquaculture and Laboratory shellfish pathologist Dr. Inke Sunila.

MEMORANDUM

To: David Carey
Director, Bureau of Aquaculture

From: Inke Sunila
Shellfish Pathologist, Bureau of Aquaculture

Date: October 1, 2003

Subject: Effects of sedimentation on juvenile bivalves

To address your inquiry about the effects of sedimentation on juvenile bivalves I present the following information based on my observations.

The effect of any thickness of sediment on oyster recruitment is no oyster set. Oyster reefs are naturally kept clear of sediment by the filter-feeding action of the oysters. Any sediment on top of the substrate would prevent setting of spat oysters.

There is no information about critical burial depth of clam seed.

Three mm of sediment would have an adverse effect on juvenile oysters. Oyster spat has a growth pattern that follows the configuration of the substrate. They can be 20 mm long and still be buried by three mm of silt as they may only be less than one mm in height.